

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

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TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: WORKFORCE INNOVATION IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SOLICITATION

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) has announced the availability of funds under the Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative – Third Generation. The ETA anticipates awarding a total of \$65 million, approximately \$5 million per project, in third generation WIRED grants over a three-year period. Each Governor may submit up to two applications on behalf of regions within their states. Applications are due to DOL by April 13, 2007.

The DOL has specified that Governors may not submit applications from any of the regions that have already received a WIRED grant. However, a small overlap between the existing WIRED regions and an applying region will be permitted. A map of the California counties included in the first and second WIRED grants is included in Attachment 1.

The Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA) is requesting that any partnership wanting to be considered as one of the two applications for California provide a proposed concept paper to the LWDA by 3 p.m., Friday, March 9, 2007. Late concept papers will not be accepted.

Concept papers may be submitted by mail or fax to:

Jaime Fall
Deputy Secretary for Employment and Workforce Development
Labor and Workforce Development Agency
801 K Street, Suite 2101
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX (916) 327-9158

The State reserves the right to take the following actions:

- Negotiate with jurisdictions to combine proposals if it is believed this will strengthen the state's opportunity to receive a grant.
- Submit less than two applications.

EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Special requests for services, aids, and/or special formats need to be made by calling (916) 654-8055 (Voice) or (916) 654-9820 (TTY).

One of the major goals for WIRED is to fully align the public workforce investments with a regional economic growth agenda. Therefore, DOL ETA has mandated regional partnership teams to include a senior representative of the workforce investment system within the region as the lead, or co-lead with at least one other regional partner. Examples of senior workforce system representatives include the chair or the executive director of a Local Workforce Investment Board or a senior representative of a regional workforce consortium. In addition to workforce investment system partners, other mandatory partners include senior leaders from the following entities: education (including K-12, community colleges, and four year institutions) within the region, regional business leadership, and economic development at the regional/local level.

Attached to this information bulletin is the concept paper format that applicants must use and submit to the LWDA to be considered. The required information reflects the rating criteria and other information contained in the DOL Solicitation for Grant Application available online at www.doleta.gov. The information required by the LWDA is meant to help the State determine which applications will be the most competitive nationally and to simultaneously assist partnerships to develop substantial outlines of proposals should the partnership be selected as one of California's applicants. A total of 100 points is possible for this State review process. Concept papers are limited to five pages.

Applicants will be notified as to the selection made by the LWDA by March 15, 2007. A team consisting of the LWDA, Employment Development Department, and California Workforce Investment Board staff will assist the selected partnerships to fully develop applications for submittal by the State to DOL by the April 13, 2007 deadline.

Additional information regarding the DOL WIRED Initiative is available on the DOL Employment and Training Administration (ETA) website as follows: www.doleta.gov/wired. The DOL will host a WIRED Virtual Prospective Applicant Conference (Webinar) for this grant on March 6, 2007 at 10 a.m. PST.

Questions regarding this concept paper process should be directed to Jaime Fall at (916) 327-9064. Questions regarding the DOL WIRED Initiative should be addressed at the Webinar.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER
Chief
Workforce Services Division

Attachments are available on the Internet:

1. [Map of Regions Previously Awarded WIRED Funds](#) (PDF)
2. [WIRED Concept Paper Application](#) (DOC)
3. [WIRED Partner Roles and Responsibilities Chart](#) (DOC)
4. [DOL WIRED Initiative Grants Timeline](#) (PDF)